

Minutes for Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Thursday, 1 December 2016

ATTENDANCE: Janice Agazio, Wanda Riddle, Michael Blum, Bob Gillette, Howard Mooney (chair), Reg Avery, Robert Lowell, Robert Moore, Lisa Terry GUESTS: Ed Hall (Commander, American Legion Post 156), Larry Killen (Howard County Military Joint Council), Jamie Gillette, Jack McNiff, Barbara Whelan, Joshua Gillette, Cindy Lowell

Meeting called to order at 1620 after brief social time.

OLD BUSINESS: November minutes were approved. Future meeting dates: 5 January 2017, 2 February 2017.

Special thanks to all who participated in Veteran's Day activities- HCC, CA Lakefront, fire truck dedication, Parade, Fort Meade, Veterans, Thunder Hill and Glenwood Elementary, etc.

Thanks to Larry Killen for all of his work on the Parade.

Thanks to those who testified and supported Retired Veteran Property Tax Credit bill. It did pass. [Baltimore Sun article](#) Lisa did reach out to Linda Watts who had some questions about the bill.

Business card information to be sent to Lisa

Veteran Resource Fair - Tues, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Miller Branch Library. May offer workshops and tours at 50+ Center. Need guest speakers. Suggested donation of \$25 for vendors to go toward Veteran Monument.

Ed shared that he and some others visited Mike Lauriente at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. He did receive the Commission's card.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lisa announced the MDVA will be funding a FT VSO (4x/wk) at the Howard County Multi Service Center in Laurel sometime in January.

Howard County Govt is collecting donations for 7 Howard County veteran (families) in need and Fisher House at Walter Reed. If anyone wants to donate cash or gift cards, drop them off at Lisa's office by Dec 19.

Bob Gillette gave update on Veterans Monument. Nothing new to report although the location will be somewhere on the Lakefront. We received \$100 from the Chamber at the Veteran's Day Luncheon.

It was suggested that Gold Star Families should be included in our meetings and more education to public about these families is needed. Theresa Mills, Columbia resident and GS Mother, as been invited to our meetings.

Wanda shared that a large wheelchair was located for a veteran in need.

Lisa shared her mission of wanting all HCPSS schools to recognize Veterans Day in the future so she will form a subcommittee after the new year to discuss ways to do this. Mike Blum mentioned there was a resource guide for schools to celebrate Veterans Day already out there. (I found this one online - [Veterans Day School Kit](#)). Reg said he could help with this effort as PTAC-H president.

American Legion Post 156 Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016. Catered by Mission Barbeque. \$20

Meeting adjourned at 1700 and holiday party continued.

Submitted by Lisa B. Terry

